

# Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC)



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<http://epic.uncc.edu/>

Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC)

# Charlotte Region – A Power Hub



- 260+ Energy-related with 28,000 workers in energy sector
- E<sup>4</sup> Carolinas, an Energy Trade Association
- 11,000 Power and Energy Engineers
- 39 Power plants in the 16 counties with 12 Nuclear reactors
- Growing renewable energy portfolio
- Several grid modernization initiatives
- Change of generation mix towards natural gas



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# EPIC Background

- EPIC was FOUNDED by the energy industry.
- Needed talent for the future:
  - Average age of engineers is 55+
  - Economic Development
  - Innovation in power industry
- Professional development and life-long learning of employees
- Applied research needs for a safe, reliable, and sustainable energy future.





# Founding Industrial EPIC Partners

- Duke Energy
- Siemens
- Westinghouse
- AREVA
- URS Corp
- CB&I (Shaw)
- Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
- Tessera
- Steag Energy Services

The Siemens logo, featuring the word "SIEMENS" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.The Duke Energy logo, featuring a stylized blue and green circular icon to the left of the words "DUKE ENERGY" in a blue, sans-serif font.The Westinghouse logo, featuring a circular icon with a crown-like symbol inside, followed by the word "Westinghouse" in a black, sans-serif font.The Areva logo, featuring a large, stylized red letter "A" above the word "AREVA" in a red, sans-serif font.The URS logo, featuring the letters "URS" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.The CB&I logo, featuring a blue globe icon with the letters "CBI" in white, sans-serif font.The EPRI logo, featuring the letters "EPRI" in a blue, sans-serif font.The steag logo, featuring the word "steag" in a blue, sans-serif font, with a horizontal line underneath.The Tessera logo, featuring the word "TESSERA" in a blue, sans-serif font, followed by a small, stylized blue and white diamond icon.

# EPIC Industry Advisory Board

Chairman: Dhiaa Jamil, Duke Energy, Group Executive and Chief Nuclear Officer

18 senior executives as board members from key companies:

- Duke Energy
- Steag
- AREVA
- URS/Washington,
- CB&I (Shaw), Senior Vice President
- EPRI
- Siemens Energy
- Westinghouse
- Piedmont Natural Gas
- EnergyUnited
- ABB

# EPIC Sponsors and Research Funding





# EPIC Goals

## ● Education

- Educate Multi-disciplinary Energy Students
- Develop well-balanced curriculums
- Develop Energy Concentrations
- Program development with regional universities



## ● Research and Development

- Applied multi- disciplinary research in the energy field
- Coordinate efforts with regional and global universities  
NCSU, Clemson, USC, Georgia Tech., KIT, Delft, etc.

## ● Economic Development

- Creation of energy workforce pipeline
- Grow jobs, vendors, suppliers of energy companies.
- Incubation of energy related startup's
- Outreach and leadership activities



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# EPIC – a successful Public Private Partnership

- State of North Carolina
  - Capital for building \$ 76 M
  - 25 new Faculty and staff \$ 4.5 M per annum
  - Operational budget \$ 500 k per annum
- Industry Startup Support \$ 17 M
- Research and grants
  - Federal and industry \$10 M per annum



# EPIC Building

- The 200,000 ft<sup>2</sup> , \$ 76 M, building opened in Fall 2012
- Unique LEEDs Gold Certified features.
- Classrooms, conference rooms, power labs, environmental labs, high bay structural lab., Smart Grid lab and offices
- Laboratories for electrical, civil, environmental and computer engineering
- Laboratory and Office for Industrial Partners
- Conference and event facilities



# EPIC Faculty

100+ EPIC associated faculty and staff across campus:

- Power Systems, Power Electronics and Smart Grid
- Power Plant Design, Metrology and Manufacturing
- Infrastructure & Environment
- Renewable Energy Systems
- Energy Markets & Systems



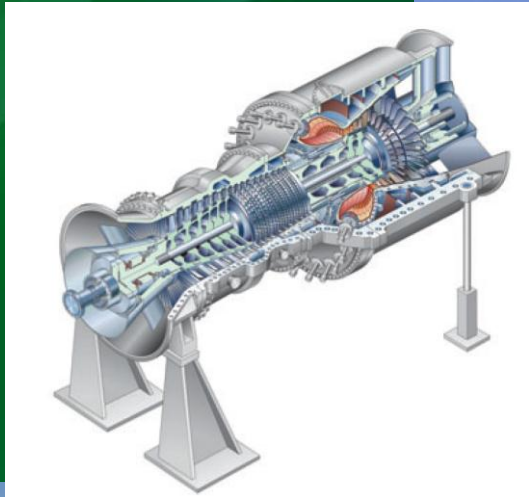
# EPIC Education Focus

- Undergraduate Education – 350 Students taking Energy Courses
  - Energy Engineering Concentrations (100+ students enrolled)
  - Expand Co-op and Internship program
  - Undergraduate Research Assistance
  - Student participation in Leadership Academy
  - 32 Energy Senior Design Projects
  - “Introduction to Power & Energy”
- Graduate Education in Development
  - MBA with Energy Concentration, with Belk Business School
  - COE-wide MS in Applied Energy and Electromechanical Systems
  - 4 MS Concentrations in Energy Systems
  - Certifications – Energy Efficiency, Nuclear, Smart Grid, I&C, etc.
  - Energy Certification for Non-engineers
  - Graduate Research Assistance
  - Accredited short courses – PE through MS
- Coordination with Regional Universities





# EPIC Applied Research



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# EPIC Applied Research Clusters (1)

- *Power Systems Modernization*

- Duke Energy Smart Grid Laboratory with RTDS and system analysis – NSF MRI
- Distribution Automation and Micro-grids
- Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Integration

- *Large Energy Component Design and Manufacturing*

- Siemens Large-scale Manufacturing Laboratory
- Materials Characterization Laboratory (MCL)
- Robotics and Welding Technologies

- *Power Infrastructure & Environmental Development*

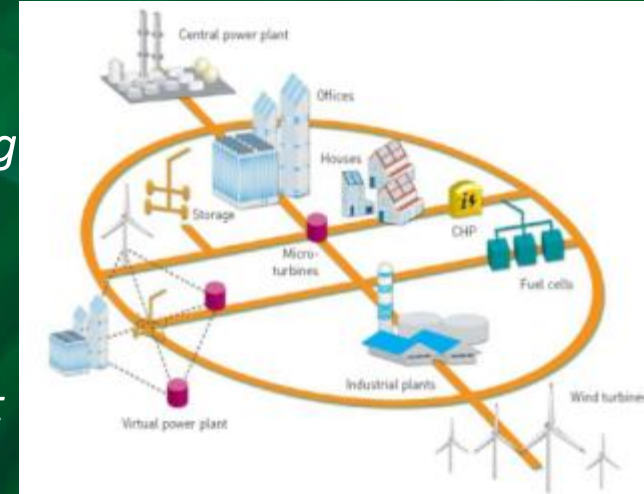
- Large-structures laboratory and T&D designs
- Utilization and recycling of spent fuels, air quality and water management
- Natural –gas fracturing and infrastructure

- *Renewables and Energy Efficiency*

- Clean-rooms with PV cell, module process and LED research
- Off-shore wind, biomass and small-scale hydro technologies
- Integration of renewables and energy efficiency measures

- *Energy Markets, Analytics and Systems*

- Quality Assurance, Nuclear Safety, Regulatory, Standards
- Distributed energy markets, analytics and operational research





# EPIC Applied Research Clusters (2)

- The Infrastructure, Design, Environment and Sustainability Center (*IDEAS*)  
[ideas.uncc.edu](http://ideas.uncc.edu)
  - Development and utilization of biofuels
  - Natural and Built Site Design and Analysis (Green Buildings)
  - Materials Characterization Laboratory (MCL)
  - Environmental impact analysis
  - Environmental Assistance Office for Small Business (EAO)
- *Sustainable Integrated Buildings and Sites* (*SIBS*)
  - I/UCRC NSF Center with industry related research
  - PV integration in dense urban settings with limited roof space poor orientation, insurance issues, etc.
  - Optical collectors to guide light into PV building
  - Energy modeling for DSM, energy storage, and renewables
  - Thermal-energy storage for peak-shaving
  - Thermal storage technologies





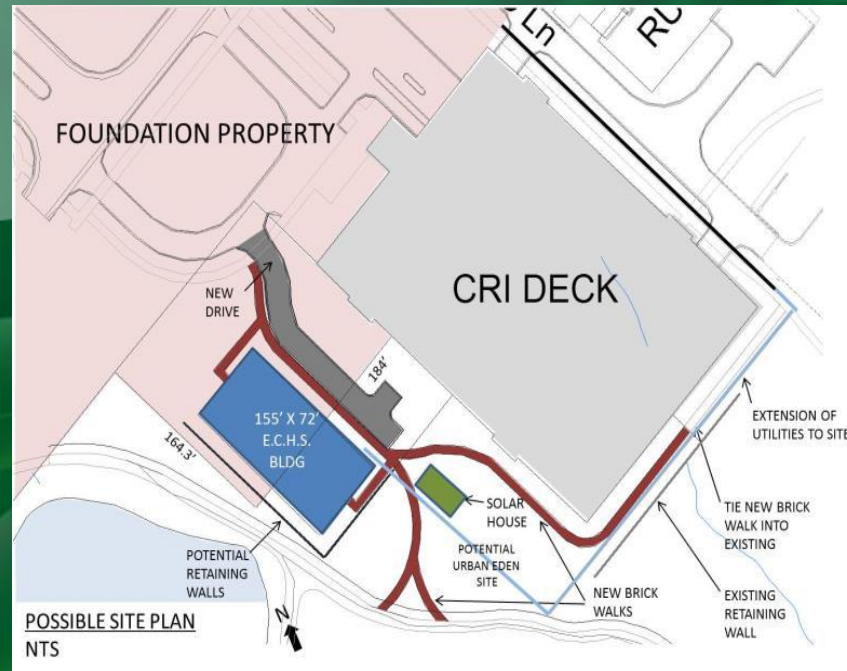
# Environmental Impact Lab -

- Expertise in:
  - Utility waste utilization and management, including coal and fly ash, nuclear waste
  - Waste to energy production
  - Water quality analysis
  - Air quality analysis
  - Waste water treatment for Natural Gas Fracking



# Early College High School and Sustainable Park

- Partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System
- Grades 9-13
- STEM focus with energy concentration



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